

# Speaker Biographies



**Bill Fisch**

York Regional Chairman and CEO

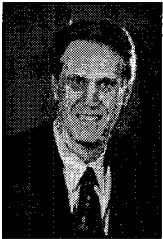
Bill Fisch B.Comm, L.L.B., is the Chairman and CEO of the Regional Municipality of York and graduate of Queen's University and Osgoode Hall Law School. He is a driving force behind an innovative VI VA Rapid Transit system for York Region, and is a sought-after speaker at municipal and international conferences. While increasing service delivery levels, Mr. Fisch continues to enhance the Region's position as one of the best places in Ontario to live, work and visit.



**Mayor Michael Di Biase**

City of Vaughan

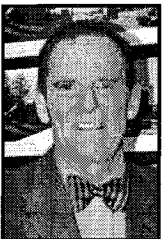
Michael Di Biase was appointed Mayor of the City of Vaughan in 2002. Under his leadership, the City of Vaughan continues to be one of Canada's fastest growing cities in terms of construction value and employment retention and expansion. As Chair of the Sustainable Communities Board of the Toronto and Regional Conservation Authority, Mayor Di Biase has been an advocate across the GTA for preserving our natural environment. Mayor Di Biase has BA from York University, and a BEd from the University of Toronto.



**Bryan Tuckey**

Commissioner, Planning &  
Development Services Department,  
York Region

Bryan Tuckey is the Commissioner of Planning and Development Services for York Region, the 6th largest municipal jurisdiction in Canada. Bryan held two positions with Ontario's Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing: as the Director of Provincial Planning and Environmental Services, and most recently as the Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Provincial-Municipal Relations Division. In total, Bryan has more than 20 years of experience including a number of senior management positions. Bryan is a Registered Professional Planner and has a Masters degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo. Bryan is a member of several professional associations including the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario, the Ontario Professional Planners Institute, and the Canadian Institute of Planners.



**John Waller**

Director, Long Range & Strategic  
Planning, York Region

John B. Waller, Director of Long Range & Strategic Planning at the Region of York has been a practicing planner for over 25 years. In his 10 years with the Region as Director, he has been responsible for preparing York Region's First Official Plan, York Region Greening Strategy and Vision 2026 as well as the GTA Centres & Corridors Strategy. He has also been heavily involved in strategic planning and setting up the economic development function at York Region. John is a full member of the Canadian Institute of Planners and the Ontario Professional Planners Institutes.



**Bob Willard**

Keynote Speaker

During his 34-year IBM career, Bob held leadership positions in marketing, technical support, education, and human resources, including 20 years in management. He is the author of *The Sustainability Advantage: Seven Business Case Benefits of a Triple Bottom Line* (New Society Publishers, 2002) on the business case for sustainability strategies and *The Next Sustainability Wave: Building Boardroom Buy-in* (New Society Publishers, 2005) on why some companies are committed to sustainability, why others are not, and how to overcome senior executive resistance to making that commitment. He has a BSc from McGill University (1964), an MEd from OISE/UT (2000), and a PhD from OISE/UT (2005).



**David Wheeler**

Director, York Institute for Research and Innovation in Sustainability (IRIS)

David Wheeler is Director and Erivan K Haub Professor in Business and Sustainability at the Schulich School of Business, York University, Toronto. He is also the Founding Director of the York Institute for Research and Innovation in Sustainability - a strategic initiative of York University embracing all ten faculties. David received the 2003 Corporate Knights award for 'External Impact' as a faculty pioneer in Canadian business schools. David Wheeler has advised a variety of Governments, civil society organizations and businesses in developed and developing nations, is Visiting Professor in Sustainable Enterprise at Kingston University Business School (UK), and is a member of the board of the Laidlaw Foundation and a member of the advisory councils of DuPont Canada and Sustainability (UK).



**Tom Ryley**

Executive Vice President, Energy Marketing and Refining - Canada, Suncor Energy Inc.

Tom Ryley joined Suncor in 1983 and is currently executive vice president, Energy Marketing and Refining - Canada. The Energy Marketing and Refining business manages the downstream parts of Suncor's business in Canada. He has held positions in a variety of Suncor departments, including strategic business development, planning and financial analysis, fuels and chemical marketing, supply operations, retail marketing, and government affairs. Tom holds a master's degree in public policy and administration and is a graduate of both York University and Carleton University. He serves as a board member of Pioneer Petroleum and the Canadian Petroleum Products Institute.



**Brian Denney**

Chief Administrative Officer, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Brian E. Denney, P. Eng. became Chief Administrative Officer of The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), where he has been employed in positions of progressive responsibility for 29 years, on May 19, 2003. He graduated from the University of Guelph in 1974 with a BSc (Eng) Water Resources major. His responsibilities include managing and overseeing all aspects of the organization in an effort to guide the TRCA to work with its many partners to make the Toronto region one of the most sustainable and livable urban communities in the world. He is a member of the *Towards Sustainability in York Region Advisory Group* and the *Rouge Park Alliance*. He is an active participant in Conservation Ontario, the association representing the 36 conservation authorities in the province.



**Rahul K. Bhardwaj (L.L.B.)**

Chief Executive Officer, United Way of York Region

Rahul Bhardwaj has a background in corporate law, strategic communications and community service. Prior to joining United Way of York Region as its CEO in the spring of 2004, Mr. Bhardwaj was a corporate lawyer with one of Canada's leading law firms, a Vice President of the Toronto 2008 Olympic Bid and President of a communications consulting company. Mr. Bhardwaj has extensive experience as a senior volunteer with a variety of organizations including, Chairman of the Toronto Downtown Jazz Festival, member of the Board of Directors of the Stratford Festival of Canada, the United Way of Greater Toronto as well as the Canadian Opera Company, Wellspring Cancer Support Foundation and World Literacy Canada, among many others.



**Dr. Greg Baeker**

Senior Consultant, AuthentiCity: Creating Urban Wealth

Dr. Greg Baeker has served in senior leadership positions in the cultural field in Canada for 25 years as a cultural planner, policy maker and academic. Greg is part of a team of professional consultants for *AuthentiCity*, an urban policy practice of Navigator. Led by former Winnipeg mayor and urban strategist Glen Murray, the team works with civic leaders to develop culture-driven economic development and urban renewal strategies. Dr. Baeker's educational background includes a Masters in Museum Studies (University of Toronto) and a PhD in Urban Planning (University of Waterloo).

